

ELECTION AND REMARKS

In the present application, claims 1-61 are now pending. In the above Action, Examiner Hruskoci made a restriction requirement between two groups of claims, which were characterized as follows:

- I. Claims 1-60, drawn to a filter assembly, classified in class 210, subclass 209.
- II. Claim 61, drawn to a method, classified in class 210, subclass 749.

The basis for this restriction is allegedly that the inventions are distinct, each from the other because of the following reasons:

Inventions II and I are related as process and apparatus for its practice. The inventions are distinct if it can be shown that either: (1) the process as claimed can be practiced by another materially different apparatus or by hand, or (2) the apparatus as claimed can be used to practice another and materially different process. (MPEP §806.05(e)). In this case the apparatus as claimed can be used in a materially different method such as a gas purification method.

In response to the restriction requirement, the Applicant hereby elects, without traversal, the Group I invention (claims 1-60) for further prosecution in this application. As a result of this election, claim 61 has been cancelled for future consideration in a potential divisional application.

In view of the above election, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case through to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicant's undersigned representative by telephone.

Respectfully submitted,

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